

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, IS

SUBJECT: BINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

1. DURING LUNCHEON WITH SCIATT ON SEPTEMBER 21 MINISTRY COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY CHIEF SCIENTIST, YITZHAK YAACOV, REFERRED TO RECENT MESSAGE FROM ISRAELI EMBASSY STATING THAT FUNDS FOR U.S.-ISRAEL BINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (BIRD) WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED DURING THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS. MESSAGE DID NOT PROVIDE EXPLANATION AS TO THE REASON FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT. SCIATT REPLIED THAT THIS WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING ALSO FROM HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON.

2. YAACOV EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT WHICH HE SAID WAS SHARED BY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY BAR-LEV. FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE BIRD AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS SIGNED LAST MARCH, IN A TIMELY AND ORDERLY FASHION COULD BE VIEWED AS A DEMONSTRATION OF BAD FAITH, HE SAID. YAACOV NOTED THAT HE NOW MUST FACE THOSE ISRAELI SCIENCE-BASED INDUSTRIES WHICH HAD BEEN PROMISED PARTICIPATION IN BIRD BEGINNING IN FALL OF 1976.

3. WE WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO ISRAELIS WITH EXPLANATION FOR DELAY AND OUR CURRENT THINKING ON SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. PLEASE ADVISE.

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